

at nares 52 mm; narrowest depth of bill 35 mm; tarsus 128 mm; middle toe and claw 176 mm; wing 635 mm; tail 197 mm; wingspan 9 ft. 10½ in.

The head and body plumage was white except for isolated feathers on the back, which were finely barred with brown; similar markings were evident on most of the scapulars. A few of the rectrices were either tipped with black or barred. Except for pale edges to some of the larger coverts, the upper wing was entirely dark.

The *Checklist of New Zealand Birds* (1953) recognizes two subspecies of the Royal Albatross—*epomophora* from Auckland and Campbell Islands, and *sanfordi* from the Chatham Islands and Taiaroa Heads (Dunedin). The former is larger and, when adult, generally shows some difference in plumage between the sexes. The dimensions and plumage of the Australian-taken example, when compared with data available for both *epomophora* and *sanfordi*, point to the probability that it is an immature bird of the subspecies *epomophora*.

A paper entitled "Field identification and sex determination of the Royal Albatross" by K. Westerskov, together with a fine series of photographs, has been published in *Notornis*, vol. 9, no. 1, July 1960, pp. 1-6, pls. 1-8.

An Oriental Cuckoo in New South Wales.—The Oriental Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*) is seldom seen in New South Wales and recorded observations are very few. On February 25, 1961, at Fosterton, near Dungog, one was under observation throughout the afternoon but it could not be found on subsequent days. The bird was in a narrow strip of rain-forest type timber adjoining the open flats of the Williams River.

In general appearance, flight and habits, it bore a marked resemblance to the Pallid Cuckoo (*C. pallidus*). The head and back were grey, the wings a dark grey. The throat was grey but the remainder of the underparts were white barred with black. The tail, which was faintly marked with white overall, was grey on the basal half, a darker grey on the remaining half, and the tip was white. There was a faint yellow mark around the eyes and the feet and legs were also yellow. The bill was black. The overall length was about 12 inches.—W. McK. DOWLING, Bandon Grove, N.S.W.